

d) said [water/thickener mixture] solution of said water and said thickener; and mixing said alkaline earth metal sulfonate or sulfonate-containing mixture together with said [water/thickener] solution of said water and said thickener until a uniform emulsion is formed.

Kindly add the following new claims:

-3. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said urethane-based thickener compound is a nonionic, associative thickener.--

-4. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said alkaline earth metal sulfonate or said sulfonate-containing mixture is overbased or neutral.--

-5. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said sulfonate-containing mixture is comprised of a sulfonate mixed with at least one additive selected from the group consisting of oils, waxes, microcrystalline waxes, petrolatums, tall oil fatty acids, calcium salts of oxidized petrolatums, nonionic surfactants, and linear alcohol/hydrocarbon mixtures.--

-6. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said alkaline earth metal sulfonate is calcium overbased sulfonate structurally modified to contain crystalline calcium carbonate.

-7. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 3.--

-8. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 4.--

-9. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 5.--

-10. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 6.--

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 3-10 have been added. Accordingly claims 1-10 are now pending in the application.

I Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject